

AMENDED IN SENATE AUGUST 24, 2006

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 16, 2006

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 1, 2006

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2005–06 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 2802

Introduced by Assembly Member Pavley

February 24, 2006

An act to add Section 44265.2 to the Education Code, relating to teacher credentialing.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2802, as amended, Pavley. Teacher credentialing: optional early childhood education credential.

Existing law requires the Commission on Teacher Credentialing to, among other things, establish professional standards, assessments, and examinations for entry and advancement in the education profession. Existing law requires the commission to award specified types of credentials to applicants whose preparation and competence satisfy its standards, including credentials for teaching specialties that include, among others, early childhood education.

This bill would require the commission to establish an optional early childhood education credential for kindergarten and grades 1 and 2 that is to be ~~built~~ *incorporated* into the multiple subject teaching credential and would provide that the teaching authorization of an early childhood education credential is equivalent to the full multiple subject teaching credential, except that there is to be a statement on the multiple subject teaching credential that the individual has completed an early childhood education emphasis. The bill would

require the optional credential to consist of 24 units of early learning training, as specified. The bill would provide that these units of early learning training are to be incorporated into the existing multiple subject teaching credential program and are not to add more units to that program. *The bill would require the commission, before it issues an optional early childhood education credential, to verify that the individual is appropriately trained to teach in kindergarten and grades 1 to 8, inclusive. The bill would require the commission to use existing resources to implement the bill's provisions.*

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 44265.2 is added to the Education
2 Code, to read:

3 44265.2. (a) The commission shall establish an optional early
4 childhood education credential for kindergarten and grades 1 and
5 2 that shall be incorporated into the multiple subject teaching
6 credential. The teaching authorization of an early childhood
7 education credential is equivalent to the full multiple subject
8 teaching credential, except that there shall be a statement on the
9 multiple subject teaching credential that the individual has
10 completed an early childhood education emphasis.

11 (b) The optional early childhood education credential shall
12 consist of 24 units of early learning training of which 12 units
13 shall be of college or university, which may include community
14 college, coursework in early childhood education and 12 units
15 shall contain an emphasis in early childhood education within the
16 multiple subject teacher preparation program to be incorporated
17 into the program based on standards to be developed by the
18 commission with input from experts in early childhood
19 education. However, these units of early learning training shall
20 be incorporated into the existing multiple subject teaching
21 credential program and shall not add more units to that program.
22 *Before the commission issues an optional early childhood*
23 *education credential, the commission shall verify that the*
24 *individual is appropriately trained to teach in kindergarten and*
25 *grades 1 to 8, inclusive.*

1 (c) The purpose of the early childhood education credential is
2 to provide teachers with the option of selecting a specialized
3 early childhood education credential for kindergarten and grades
4 1 and 2 to improve the quality of instruction for young children,
5 as the skills necessary to successfully teach young pupils differs
6 greatly from the skills necessary to teach middle school pupils.
7 The benefits include improved pupil performance and making
8 teachers more marketable in an area of teaching they enjoy.
9 (d) *The commission shall implement this section using existing*
10 *resources.*